



Paddling Guide to the Namekagon River

Water levels on the Namekagon River depend on the amount of precipitation that falls in the watershed. Water level information and detailed section maps can be obtained at Riverway visitor centers or online at www.nps.gov/sacn. River miles (N92.6) correspond to river miles indicated on section maps. Not all landings or facilities are listed here so it is best to use this guide with maps.

River Stretch	Description
Namekagon Dam to Cable Wayside	The river here is narrow and shallow with stretches of rocky rapids. Water levels can be extremely low and impassable during dry conditions, especially near the headwaters. From Phillipi Landing (N88.6) to Cable Wayside (N86.0) water levels tend to be slightly better. The first ten miles of this stretch are very isolated; expect numerous beaver dams, strainers (downed trees), and three low bridges.
Cable Wayside to Phipps Landing	This section may be challenging during times of low water. Downstream from Cable Wayside (N86.0) the river is calm, but shallow and rocky. It is usually possible to get a canoe under the low bridge at Leonard Schoolhouse Road (N84.7) but there is also a portage to the right. A chute at the old Pacwawong Dam site (N82.2) can be canoed during high water or look for a portage to the right. Watch out for strainers. In several places there are many channels around islands. Downstream from Larsen Landing (N77.8) the river is rocky with several small rapids.
Phipps Landing to Hayward Landing	As you enter Phipps Flowage (N74.4) , the river is slow with the channel becoming deep and wide. At the old Phipps Dam site (N72.8) , you can usually run the rapids or look for the sign to portage right. From Trout Run Landing (N72.0) to Hospital Road (N69.8) you may encounter large groups of people on inner tubes. Hayward Lake (N68.0) is large and open, making paddling difficult during a strong headwind. At the end of the lake, you must portage the dam to the left. Be careful as the portage is sometimes slippery.
Hayward Landing to Big Bend Landing	After Hayward Landing (N66.1) the river is rocky and narrow, with a few small rapids, but a few miles downstream the river becomes sandy and slow. Water levels are usually good. Just downstream from Stinnett Landing (N57.7) the river narrows forming a chute. As you continue downstream the river narrows and quickens with many Class I rapids. Watch for the main channel, since smaller channels may become shallow or blocked. Beware of the steep and often slippery stairs at Springbrook Landing (N49.9) . Downstream of here, the river is mostly calm with a few small riffles and rapids.
Big Bend Landing to the Visitor Center	After Big Bend Landing (N45.0) the river widens, slows, becomes sandy, and is an easy paddle. Earl Landing (N41.3) is a popular landing for people on inner tubes on hot summer weekends. Downstream, the river becomes narrow, often breaks into channels, and has a few rapids.
Visitor Center to County K Landing	Shortly after the Visitor Center (N37.3) the river passes under Highway 53 and then there are five miles of slow paddling through the Trego Flowage (N36.5) . Be aware of wakes from fast moving boats. Once through the flowage there will be a sign for the required portage to the right around the Trego Dam (N31.6) .
County K Landing to Howell Landing	Downstream of County K Landing (N31.2) the river is narrow and contains riffles. Islands and sandbars are frequently encountered, however, water levels are usually good. After Whispering Pines Landing (N21.3) the river widens and slows.
Howell Landing to the confluence	Downstream from Howell Landing (N16.9) the river is somewhat rocky until you pass Highway 77, then it becomes sandy. Fritz Landing (N13.7) can be hard to see. Watch for a small island and use the left channel if taking out. The river widens after McDowell Landing (N11.2) . After Namekagon Trail Landing (N4.8) , the river becomes rockier with riffles and there are several Class I rapids before the confluence. The St. Croix River has a rocky bottom and is shallow, making it challenging during low water conditions. There are more rapids as you approach Riverside Landing (S131.7) .

Distance Chart for the Namekagon River

Namekagon Dam
Landing

For more trip planning information:
Namekagon River Visitor Center
Highway 63, half mile east of Highway 53
Trego, WI 54888
(715) 635-8346

Or visit the Riverway website at: www.nps.gov/sacn
For river maps: www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/brochures.htm
For water levels: www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/riverlevels.htm

Directions for Distance Chart Use

To calculate the distance from one landing to another, start at the landing farthest upstream. Move down the column to the row labeled with the landing you want to end at. For example, to find the distance between Stinnett Landing and Earl Landing, move down the Stinnett Landing column to the Earl Landing row and you should read 16.4. All distances are in miles.

International Scale of River Difficulty

Class 1: Moving water with a few riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.

Class 2: Easy rapids with waves up to three feet and wide clear channels that are obvious without scouting. Some maneuvering is required.

Class 3: Rapids with high, irregular waves often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages often require complex maneuvering. May require scouting from shore.

Section Map 1: Namekagon Dam to Hayward	6.9	County M Landing		<div>Namekagon River Visitor Center Highway 63, half mile east of Highway 53 Trego, WI 54888 (715) 635-8346 Or visit the Riverway website at: www.nps.gov/sacn For river maps: www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/brochures.htm For water levels: www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/riverlevels.htm</div>																				
	7.6	0.7	Cap Creek Landing																					
	10.9	4.0	3.3																	Phillipi Bridge Landing				
	13.5	6.6	5.9																	2.6	Cable Wayside Landing			
	21.7	14.8	14.1																	10.8	8.2	Larsen Landing		
	25.0	18.1	17.4																	14.1	11.5	3.3	Phipps Landing	
	27.5	20.6	19.9																	16.6	14.0	5.8	2.5	Trout Run Landing
	33.4	26.5	25.8																	22.5	19.9	11.7	8.4	5.9
Section Map 2: Hayward Landing to Trego	41.2	34.3	33.6	30.3	27.7	19.5	16.2	13.7	7.8	West River Landing														
	41.8	34.9	34.2	30.9	28.3	20.1	16.8	14.3	8.4	0.6	Stinnett Landing													
	44.5	37.6	36.9	33.6	31.0	22.8	19.5	17.0	11.1	3.3	2.7	Groat Landing												
	47.0	40.1	39.4	36.1	33.5	25.3	22.0	19.5	13.6	5.8	5.2	2.5	North Springbrook Landing											
	49.6	42.7	42.0	38.7	36.1	27.9	24.6	22.1	16.2	8.4	7.8	5.1	2.6	Springbrook Landing										
	54.5	47.6	46.9	43.6	41.0	32.8	29.5	27.0	21.1	13.3	12.7	10.0	7.5	4.9	Big Bend Landing									
	58.2	51.3	50.6	47.3	44.7	36.5	33.2	30.7	24.8	17.0	16.4	13.7	11.2	8.6	3.7	Earl Park Landing								
	62.2	55.3	54.6	51.3	48.7	40.5	37.2	34.7	28.8	21.0	20.4	17.7	15.2	12.6	7.7	4.0	Namekagon Visitor Center & Landing							
Section Map 3: Trego to Riverside	68.3	61.4	60.7	57.4	54.8	46.6	43.3	40.8	34.9	27.1	26.5	23.8	21.3	18.7	13.8	10.1	6.1	County K Landing						
	78.2	71.3	70.6	67.3	64.7	56.5	53.2	50.7	44.8	37.0	36.4	33.7	31.2	28.6	23.7	20.0	16.0	9.9	Whispering Pines Landing					
	82.6	75.7	75.0	71.7	69.1	60.9	57.6	55.1	49.2	41.4	40.8	38.1	35.6	33.0	28.1	24.4	20.4	14.3	4.4	Howell & West Howell Landing				
	85.8	78.9	78.2	74.9	72.3	64.1	60.8	58.3	52.4	44.6	44.0	41.3	38.8	36.2	31.3	27.6	23.6	17.5	7.6	3.2	Fritz Landing			
	88.3	81.4	80.7	77.4	74.8	66.6	63.3	60.8	54.9	47.1	46.5	43.8	41.3	38.7	33.8	30.1	26.1	20.0	10.1	5.7	2.5	McDowell Bridge Landing		
	94.7	87.8	87.1	83.8	81.2	73.0	69.7	67.2	61.3	53.5	52.9	50.2	47.7	45.1	40.2	36.5	32.5	26.4	16.5	12.1	8.9	6.4	Namekagon Trail Landing	
	103.3	96.4	95.7	92.4	89.8	81.6	78.3	75.8	69.9	62.1	61.5	58.8	56.3	53.7	48.8	45.1	41.1	35.0	25.1	20.7	17.5	15.0	8.6	Riverside Landing (St. Croix River)

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